

IN THE CLAIMS

1-21. Cancelled

22. (Currently Amended) A method of tilling soil comprising:

- (a) pulling a seedbed preparation implement in a draft direction;
- (b) during the step (a), plowing the soil using a plurality of plow shanks mounted on a ~~main frame~~ mainframe of said seedbed preparation implement;
- (c) during the step (a), cutting and turning the soil using a plurality of rotating discs of a disc gang supported by a main beam, said main beam being pivotally connected with respect to said mainframe, said discs rotating about a common axis that extends at a gang angle relative to a perpendicular to said draft direction, and
- (d) adjusting said gang angle by moving said disc gang relative to said mainframe, the adjustment being infinite through a designated range of at least 3°, the adjusting step further comprising actuating an actuator extending wholly between said main beam and said mainframe.

~~wherein the adjusting step comprises pivoting one end portion of a main beam of said disc gang about a vertical axis while permitting a pin extending from another portion of said main beam to slide within an elongated slot on said mainframe.~~

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the disc gang angle is infinitely adjustable within at least a range extending from about 5° to about 10°.

24. Cancelled

25. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the adjusting step comprises: ~~actuating an actuator extending between said main beam and said mainframe.~~

- i. pivoting a location on said main beam about a vertical axis; and
- ii. sliding a pin in an elongated slot on said mainframe, said pin disposed at a location outwardly disposed from said first pivoting location relative to an axis extending centrally through said mainframe along said draft direction.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said discs are mounted on a disc support beam that is connected to said main beam and that moves with

said main beam during gang angle adjustment, and further comprising raising and lowering said disc support beam relative to said main beam to adjust a cutting depth of said discs.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~tilling~~ tilling soil, comprising:

- (a) pulling a seedbed preparation implement in a draft direction;
- (b) during the step (a), plowing the soil using a plurality of plow shanks mounted on a ~~main frame~~ mainframe of said seedbed preparation implement;
- (c) during the step (a), cutting and turning the soil using a plurality of rotating discs of a disc gang, said disc gang including a main beam that is coupled to a front portion of said mainframe, said main beam being angularly offset with respect to said draft direction, and a disc support beam that is located in front of said main beam[,], and that is coupled to said main beam so as to move therewith, and that supports wherein said discs are directly connected to said disc support beam and only connected to said main beam via at least one support arm extending between said disc support beam and said main beam, said discs being supported so as to permit said discs to rotate about a common axis that extends at a gang angle relative to a perpendicular to said draft direction; and
- (d) adjusting said gang angle by actuating an actuator so as to pivot said main beam about a vertical axis and thereby to cause a pin coupled to said main beam to slide along an unsegmented guide in a plate attached to said frame.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising raising and lowering said disc support beam relative to said main beam to adjust a cutting depth of said discs.

29. (New) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said mainframe is directly supported by ground-engaging wheels.

30. (New) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein said mainframe is connected between a front disc harrow and a rear disc harrow, the front disc harrow comprising the disc gang.

31. (New) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the disc gang is disposed forward of said mainframe with respect to said draft direction.

32. (New) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said first pivoting portion comprises an inner end portion of the main beam.

33. (New) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein said pin is located at an outer end portion of the main beam.

34. (New) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein said mainframe further comprises support structure pivotably connected to the disc gang.

35. (New) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein said mainframe is directly supported by ground-engaging wheels.

36. (New) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein said mainframe is connected between a front disc harrow and a rear disc harrow, the front disc harrow comprising the disc gang.

37. (New) A method of tilling soil, comprising:

- (a) pulling a seedbed preparation implement in a draft direction;
- (b) during the step (a), plowing the soil using a plurality of plow shanks mounted on a mainframe of said seedbed preparation implement;
- (c) during the step (a), cutting and turning the soil using a plurality of rotating discs of a pair of adjacent disc gangs, each disc gang including a support structure pivotably connected to said mainframe so as to permit each disc gang to rotate its discs about a common axis that extends at a gang angle relative to a perpendicular to said draft direction; and
- (d) adjusting said gang angle of said adjacent disc gangs so as to pivot said support structure about a vertical axis to thereby bring said adjacent disc gangs into alignment.

38. (New) The method as recited in claim 37, wherein said support structure comprises a main beam that is coupled to a front portion of said mainframe and a disc support beam that is located in front of said main beam that is coupled to said main beam so as to move therewith